



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox and Office Assistant Elga Concepcion.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Boy Scouts Conner Thompson and Daniel Blank.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2007-0129 Proclamation Honoring Joanna Case

Read

Mayor Watson read the Proclamation which had been presented at a ceremony in her honor.

2007-0130 Proclamation Commemorating Flag Day

Read

Councilor Kolnaski read the Proclamation which had been presented at the ceremony. She commended Boy Scout Troop 78 which placed flags along Main Street in Mystic.

Recess for Public Hearing

Mayor Watson called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.

READING OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to a resolution passed by the Town Council was read by Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox.

2007-0159 Public Hearing on Animal Shelter Ordinance

PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,385,000 FOR A REPLACEMENT ANIMAL SHELTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the sum of ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,385,000) is appropriated for a replacement animal shelter at the Town Hall Annex site on Groton Long Point Road. The project shall include design and construction of an animal shelter, including office and support areas; examining room; acquaintance room; general purpose and isolation kennels and runs; food preparation, bathing, laundry, and general storage areas; related heating, cooling and ventilating systems; sprinkler, fire alarm and security systems; extension of utilities; landscaping, access driveway and parking area; demolition of the existing dog pound and relocation of the police impound yard. The appropriation may be spent for design

and construction costs, equipment, furnishings, fixtures, materials, demolition costs, site improvements, architects' fees, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the project and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes, in an amount not to exceed ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,385,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of contributions received by the Town for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds or notes and all notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds or notes that in each year while any such bonds or notes are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town in an amount sufficient, with such other funds of the Town as shall be available for such purpose, to pay the interest and principal on the bonds or notes as the same become due and payable.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,385,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town, payable as provided in Section 2. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

Section 4. That the Town Council shall determine the amount of bonds or notes authorized by Section 2 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes authorized by Section 3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this ordinance if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

Section 7. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to

issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Section 8.12 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

Heard at Public Hearing

Town Engineer Greg Hanover reviewed the site and floor plans of the proposed new animal shelter.

Police Chief Kelly Fogg asked Animal Control Officer Donna Duso to review the needs and requirements of the animal shelter.

Ms. Duso discussed the aspect of public safety, the current working environment, and the benefits of the proposed floor plan. She noted that there are some aggressive animals currently at the Groton Animal Shelter.

Judy Currier, 18 Indian Avenue, Secretary of the Groton Animal Foundation (GAF), distributed a fact sheet compiled by GAF regarding the existing animal shelter. She requested that the Council pass the bond ordinance.

Jane Cofone, 18 Indian Avenue, Board member of GAF, noted that GAF held a fund-raising event last week which was successful. She suggested various new ways in which GAF may raise money for construction of a new animal shelter.

Mariellen French, 12 Little Gull Lane, Mystic, Director of GAF, stated that the funds needed for a new animal shelter represent a small portion of the Town's budget. She requested that the bond ordinance be reduced by the funds GAF will be providing through their fund-raising efforts. Ms. French discussed the concept of building a local shelter versus a regional facility.

Anna Barber, 2906 Gold Star Highway, Mystic, discussed the conditions at the animal shelter and informed voters about ways the Town can save money. She is concerned with the funds which the Town wastes, citing the printing of the Discover Magazine as an example.

Ted Frase, 598 New London Road, Mystic, Vice President of GAF, stated that the Town needs a new animal shelter.

Lorraine Greubel, 1039 Poquonnock Road, also stressed the need for the shelter.

Doraine Van Lew, 78 Brookview Court, supports the construction of a new animal shelter.

Peter Roper, 210 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, a member of the Planning Commission, stated that the need to replace the animal shelter was identified and approved over ten years ago. Mr. Roper supports a local animal shelter.

Terri Roper, 210 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, discussed the services available to residents and stated that the shelter needed to be upgraded years ago.

Mary Elaine Kelly, 40 Plant Street, President of GAF, provided an overview of a fact sheet which was distributed earlier in the meeting. She reviewed issues such as heating costs, foundation cracks and the lack of partitions between runs. Ms. Kelly reiterated that GAF is committed to raising \$200,000 to offset the building costs.

Karin Barth, 224 Mistuxet Avenue, Mystic, supports a local animal shelter and discussed her regular visits to the existing facility. She thanked Ms. Duso for her hard work and professionalism.

Kathy Socha, 36 Center Street, Noank, encouraged the Council to move forward with the new animal shelter and agreed with the comments made by prior petitioners.

Alicia Wright, 77 Brookshaven Road, supports the construction of a new animal shelter.

Rob Warren, 19 New London Road, Mystic, feels that \$1.4 million is too much for an animal shelter. He mentioned that taxes have increased and that capital improvement projects have exceeded the budget. Mr. Warren feels that it is unfair for GAF to pass the burden on to the other taxpayers.

Wendy Eckholm, 165 Benham Road, a member of GAF, displayed a collage of Groton Animal Shelter photos, recounted specific cases of homeless animals, and reviewed a newspaper article. Ms. Eckholm supports a local animal shelter and asked the Council to consider deducting \$200,000 from the cost of \$1,385,000. She presented petitions supporting the rebuilding of the Groton Animal Control Facility (on file at the Town Clerk's office).

Town Manager Oefinger noted that a response has not been received from the Planning Commission at this time regarding this matter. This issue should be on the Commission's agenda next week and they have 30 days in which to respond.

There being no further comments, Mayor Watson closed the Public Hearing at 8:25 p.m.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Deborah Berg, 44 Hillcrest Road, reminded the Council that the Senior Center expansion is not in keeping with the policies identified in the Plan of Conservation and Development. Ms. Berg stated that this expansion will only serve 25% of the community. She suggested the use of Noank Elementary School if there is an issue with space at the existing Senior Center. Ms. Berg urged citizens to vote against the expansion of the Senior Center.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2007-0158 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 5, 2007 and June 7, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2006-0299 Homeless Shelter Needs

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2006-0303 FYE 2008 Budget

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0142 FYE 2007 Suspense List

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0152 Proposed Adjustments to Police Retiree Pension Benefits

- 2007-0153 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Proposed Adjustments to Non-Union Police Retiree Benefits
- 2007-0154 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Proposed Adjustments to Steelworker Retiree Pension Benefits
- 2007-0155 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Removing a Member of the Planning Commission
- 2007-0160 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
Resolution Appointing Members of the Charter Revision Commission
- 2007-0157 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Solid Waste Disposal Rates
- 2007-0157 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2007-0149 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Edward DeMuzzio - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Various Donations - \$1,406.66 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Pequot Cyclists - \$75.00 - Library Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

d. Tax Refund

2007-0150 Tax Refund

RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX REFUND

WHEREAS, the following, for the reason indicated, has overpaid taxes in the amount specified, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the amount be refunded, be it

RESOLVED, that the tax refund indicated below is hereby approved.

Electric Boat Corporation - \$54,914.38 - Excess payment

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Scott, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Several Councilors received letters from the Laborers' Union; they also received emails regarding the phase-in of the revaluation.

Councilor Kolnaski and Mayor Watson attended the Annual Education Breakfast honoring Southeastern Connecticut Scholars on June 6. Councilor Kolnaski attended the Flay Day Ceremony and a meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors on June 14. She and Councilor Streeter attended a meeting of the Permanent School Building Committee.

Councilor Scott attended the School Design Phase II meeting and reviewed the officers who were elected. He received a call regarding the solicitation which is occurring on Kings Highway and at Wal-Mart.

Responding to Councilor Scott's call, the Town Manager stated that the Town Attorney and Police Chief are looking into this matter.

Councilor Streeter stated that he received packets of information at the last Permanent School Building Committee meeting which answer many questions that have been posed by citizens at prior Town Council meetings.

Mayor Watson attended the Clean Marina Awards Ceremony on June 6. He attended Joanna Case's retirement celebration on June 7. The Mayor had lunch with Ledge Light Health District Director Baker Salisbury and Chairperson Shirley Dunbar-Rose. He attended the Land-Use Leadership Alliance Reunion on June 14.

b. Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox stated that the RTM met last week at which time fourth quarter transfers were approved. She noted that there will not be a meeting in July.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Tarbox reminded viewers of the cost and time frame associated with licensing of dogs. She reported that potassium iodide (KI) pills have been provided by the State and may be obtained from the Police Department or Town Clerk's office. The Town Clerk reviewed the current list of vacancies on various boards, commissions and agencies.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger stated that there will be a picnic on June 23 honoring members of the military. He reported that the funds raised for the Tercentennial Legacy Playground total over \$275,000. Mr. Oefinger mentioned that staff is meeting to determine when this project should be started. The Town Manager reminded viewers that residential transfer station permits are available for next year and can be purchased at the Town Hall Annex or the Transfer Station on Flanders Road. He stated that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives will be available on June 22 to receive applications from residents needing assistance due to damages incurred by a Noreaster earlier in the year.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott

No meeting; no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting; no report.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

There were Special Committee of the Whole meetings on May 15 and prior to tonight's meeting. The items on tonight's agenda are a result of those meetings.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Responding to Councilor Bartinik, the Town Manager stated that Noank Elementary School will be one of four schools closed in 2008. He stated that it will be up to the Board of Education (BOE) to turn this school over to the Town.

Mr. Oefinger discussed various sites which may be utilized for a community center.

Councilor Bond would like the BOE to provide the Council with an update as to what will be done with the vacant school in a timely and accurate fashion.

Responding to Councilor Bond, Councilor O'Beirne suggested that her request be addressed to the BOE rather than to Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Mitchell or Director of Buildings and Grounds Wesley Greenleaf.

2007-0137**Adoption of Senior Center Expansion Ordinance**

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$11,770,000 FOR ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE GROTON SENIOR CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the sum of ELEVEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$11,770,000) is appropriated for renovations and additions to the Groton Senior Center. The project shall include (1) additions for new administrative offices and activity classrooms, (2) additions of a new computer room, music room, and exercise and fitness rooms, (3) renovations and additions for kitchen facilities, (4) renovations to the existing multi-purpose room, including a stage, (5) renovations and additions for the entry vestibule and lobby, (6) renovations and additions to house various activities, including arts and crafts, ceramics, cards and games, health screening, special programs, a senior store, toilets and electrical, mechanical and storage rooms, and (7) relocation of the roller hockey rink offsite to a location to be determined by the Town Manager on the recommendation of the Director of Parks and Recreation. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, furnishings, fixtures, materials, site improvements, moving and temporary relocation costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the project and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes, in an amount not to exceed ELEVEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$11,770,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds or notes and all notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds or notes that in each year while any such bonds or notes are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem

taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town in an amount sufficient, with such other funds of the Town as shall be available for such purpose, to pay the interest and principal on the bonds or notes as the same become due and payable.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed ELEVEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$11,770,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town, payable as provided in Section 2. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

Section 4. That the Town Council shall determine the amount of bonds or notes authorized by Section 2 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes authorized by Section 3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this ordinance if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

Section 7. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Section 8.12 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted

and referred under Rule 6.5.3 to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on August 8, 2007.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 9 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

2007-0164

Adoption of Senior Center Expansion Aqua Therapy Systems Ordinance

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE GROTON SENIOR CENTER \$11,770,000 APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION FOR AQUA THERAPY STRUCTURE, SYSTEMS AND FINISHES

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the \$11,770,000 appropriation for the Groton Senior Center be increased by ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,465,000) for construction of the aqua therapy structure, systems and finishes, at the Groton Senior Center, for an aggregate appropriation of \$13,235,000. The additional appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, furnishings, fixtures, materials, architects' fees, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the project and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

Section 2. That the \$11,770,000 amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued by the Town to finance the appropriation for the project be increased by ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,465,000) to finance the additional appropriation for the project, for an aggregate appropriation of THIRTEEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$13,235,000).

Section 3. That the \$11,770,000 amount of temporary notes authorized to be issued and renewed by the Town from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project be increased by ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,465,000) to THIRTEEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$13,235,000).

Section 4. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this ordinance if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 5. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Section 8.12 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

Section 6. This ordinance shall become effective only upon passage of the ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$11,770,000 FOR ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE GROTON SENIOR CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION".

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted and referred under Rule 6.5.3 to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on August 8, 2007.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 9 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

X. NEW BUSINESS

2007-0142 FYE 2007 Suspense List

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 SUSPENSE LIST

WHEREAS, State law requires that once a year a list shall be compiled of taxes that should be suspended, and

WHEREAS, the accounts which have been determined as uncollectable have been contacted at least nine times with no response, and

WHEREAS, placing uncollected items on the Suspense List helps avoid waste of money and staff time, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers remain liable for all amounts that are placed on the Suspense List, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amounts be added to the Suspense List as reported to the Town Council:

Town: \$597,387.32
Sewer District: \$1,627.82
Total: \$599,015.14

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0152 Proposed Adjustments to Police Retiree Pension Benefits

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADJUSTMENTS TO POLICE RETIREE PENSION BENEFITS

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Groton and the Groton Police Union provides that retirement benefits shall be reviewed jointly every two years, by the Union and the Town, and

WHEREAS, the last adjustment was effective in July, 2003 and March, 2006, and

WHEREAS, a review by the Department of Administrative Services indicates that benefits should be adjusted as of July 1, 2007, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves increases of 3% or 5%, as qualified under the agreement, to be effective July 1, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

Responding to Mayor Watson, the Town Manager confirmed that these three resolutions affect 40 retirees.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0153 Proposed Adjustments to Non-Union Police Retiree Benefits

RESOLUTION ADJUSTING NON-UNION POLICE RETIREE BENEFITS

WHEREAS, the retirement plan for non-union police officers was revised in 1997, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has preferred to maintain a level of non-union benefits comparable to the benefits of unionized employees in similar work, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves an increase of 3.0%, to be effective July 1, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0154 Proposed Adjustments to Steelworker Retiree Pension Benefits

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADJUSTMENTS TO STEELWORKER UNION RETIREE PENSION BENEFITS

WHEREAS, Section 17 of the Agreement Providing for Pensions for Members of the United Steelworkers of America calls for a review of retiree benefits every two years, and

WHEREAS, the last adjustment was effective in July, 2003, therefore be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE Town Council approves an overall 3.33% increase, effective July 1, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0160 Resolution Appointing Members of the Charter Revision Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council by resolution on June 5, 2007, provided for the appointment of a Charter Revision Commission of 5 to 15 electors of the Town, said commission to make its report to the Town Council not later than July 22, 2008, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following persons are appointed, effective immediately, to the Charter Revision Commission:

Shirley Dunbar-Rose
Stan Dziurzynski
Robert Frink
Nancy Moffat
Richard Moravsik
Raymond Munn
Frank "Mick" O'Beirne
Ed Stebbins
John Wirzbicki

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0157 Solid Waste Disposal Rates

RESOLUTION SETTING NEW RATES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF APPLIANCES

WHEREAS, the Town Council has responsibility for setting rates for the disposal of residential bulky waste, and

WHEREAS, the disposal fee for certain appliances was set at \$20 per item, effective July, 1995, and

WHEREAS, the 1995 rate was based on a state law that required removal of Freon from appliances prior to final disposal, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority can now carry the cost of handling Freon, and

WHEREAS, a reduction in disposal fees for this purpose was provided for in the budget of the Department of Public Works for 2007-2008, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton disposal fee for appliances collected at the Transfer Station is reduced from \$20 to \$5 per unit, effective July 1, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Responding to Councilor Bartinik, the Town Manager stated that Norwich is interested in a regional animal shelter, but that there would be difficulty due to the commuting distance between Groton and Norwich. Other surrounding communities, such as Stonington and Ledyard, have not expressed interest in a regional facility. Mr. Oefinger recommended that the Council pursue both a regional and a local facility. He also remarked at length on the circumstances of the Connecticut Humane Society and its ability to take in more animals. Councilor Bond expressed her continuing concerns about the cost of the animal shelter as proposed.

Responding to Councilor Bartinik, the Town Manager stated that the Groton Animal Shelter is grandfathered on many of the current standards that would apply to a new animal shelter.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Bond and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk

*Elga Concepcion
Office Assistant*